United Nations A/64/PV.1

General Assembly

Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

1st plenary meeting
Tuesday, 15 September 2009, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I declare open the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

Statement by the President

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to begin by expressing my gratitude and appreciation for having been elected President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. My election is a great honour for my country and its leadership. It confers on me the considerable responsibility of doing everything I can to promote the interests, peace, prosperity and well-being of the international community.

I should also like to thank Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, and to express my utmost consideration, appreciation, gratitude and respect for his excellent stewardship of that session. He fulfilled that vital role with courage and wisdom.

I have met with members of regional groups and bilateral meetings. The trust and support they have expressed in me have given me confidence in myself and in the future of the United Nations, which is our only hope for security, peace, well-being and prosperity. The United Nations and, in particular, the General Assembly are the way to a better future. People of all colours, religions and origins must cooperate and engage in dialogue through our Organization.

The world has become much smaller as a result of tremendous progress in information and communications technology. We all feel now that whatever affects some of us also affects the others, and that dialogue is the only solution. Despite that realization and that hope, we should not make light of the problems that confront us.

I think everyone understands that the United Nations is in need of reform and democratization. The General Assembly, which represents the entire world, has been hampered by the obstacles in its path. It has been unable to ensure respect for or enforce its resolutions. The United Nations must be reformed and regain international legitimacy, ensuring that its voice is heard and respected and that its resolutions are implemented.

The reform of the Security Council, the expansion of its membership and the achievement of

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equitable geographic representation are also of the utmost importance. Most of the world's inhabitants do not enjoy democratic representation. Africa, for example, is comprised of 53 States, none of which is a permanent member of the Security Council, yet they have the same characteristics as those permanent members. The same is true of Latin America and of the smaller countries represented by the Forum of Small States, which account for over half of the world's inhabitants. It is vital to reform the Security Council and to reinvigorate the General Assembly so that they can comprehensively fulfil their roles.

Dialogue and mutual understanding are the way to resolve our problems. Embargos and blockades are fruitless; they exacerbate antagonism and rebellion, while undermining respect for the will of the international community. Their only effect is on the population. Whatever their causes, wars are a humanitarian tragedy that cannot be justified. We must put an end to wars and to their causes and consequences.

Notwithstanding the work that has been done with a view to reducing the gap between rich and poor, that gap has grown steadily wider. The poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer, most often at the expense of the poor and by exploiting the resources with which they are endowed. In an unequal and disharmonious world, we cannot hope for peace and security to prevail.

We have all condemned terrorism, which causes instability and endangers the international community. Yet despite our joint efforts and resolutions, terrorism continues to grow and spread. We must address its roots and take a close and serious look at its causes and contributing factors. This is equally true of terrorism carried out by individuals, groups and States; State terrorism is the harshest form of terrorism.

The situation in the Middle East, which has remained unresolved for over 60 years, is another threat to the international community. Despite the resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council, peace remains a distant prospect. Through the General Assembly, the United Nations must assume a serious new role. The numerous resolutions of the United Nations must be respected and implemented.

The Palestinian people's aspirations to independence and its right to return to its land in accordance with United Nations resolutions are two fundamental conditions for the swift realization of peace and security in that sensitive part of the world. There must be an end to settlement activities, which have been condemned by the entire international community. The removal of illegal and illegitimate settlements would help to achieve security and a just peace in accordance with the resolutions with which we must comply.

Most of the world's peoples live below the poverty line. Millions continue to die of hunger, malnutrition and disease. Such tragedies are a cause of concern to all of us. War and tension remain widespread. We cannot build or achieve progress in a world where instability and insecurity prevail. Development and security are interdependent. We are faced with many momentous issues whose resolution requires dialogue, cooperation and community spirit.

The theme of the sixty-fourth session encompasses joint responsibility for development, the realization of peace and security, and dialogue among civilizations, all of which are pressing issues.

The special Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General will take place over the next few days. This could be an opportunity for us to bring recommendations to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, which will focus on the danger of climate change. This topic, which is the subject of international consensus, affects the future of us all. We must work together not only to attenuate the danger but to end it and protect this planet, which is our common home.

Our development goals for the third millennium, for which we determined the year 2015 as the deadline, may not be easy to achieve. The General Assembly will address that issue at its sixty-fourth session with a high-level meeting in preparation for the year 2010. I look forward to our joint consultations within the framework of resolution 63/302. In this connection, the resolutions on joint action for development in Africa coincide with the announcement we made at the General Assembly.

The crisis of the global economy, which has affected us all, rich and poor alike, is another cause of concern to the international community. In view of the danger posed by the crisis, the relevant resolution of the General Assembly (resolution 63/303) established a working group to follow up on the topic and promote any recommendations that could be undertaken jointly to remedy the situation. I call on all

States to consider the issue and take part in the search for solutions.

The goal of disarmament and non-proliferation is shared by all mankind, particularly with respect to weapons of mass destruction, which currently pose a great threat. We must shoulder our responsibilities and work not only towards non-proliferation and the elimination of nuclear weapons, but also towards the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction.

I assure all members that I shall do my utmost to ensure that the General Assembly gives sustained, serious and responsible consideration to, reaches consensus on, and resolves the issues that are brought before it.

I should like to commend Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the support that he has extended to me. We will be working very closely together with a view to achieving our goals of development, stability and security. I shall also make every effort to ensure full cooperation and coordination with the Security Council in various fields; our common interests demand such coordination and consultation. I assure the General Assembly that my door will be open to everyone.

In conclusion, I pray that we may achieve our aims and aspirations to well-being, progress, security and stability.

Item 132 of the provisional agenda

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/64/345)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Next, I would like, in keeping with established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/64/345. It contains a letter from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly, in which he informs the Assembly that six Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I would like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter,

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

May I therefore take it that the General Assembly takes note of the information contained in document A/64/345?

It was so decided.

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Credentials of representatives to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session, shall appoint, on the proposal of the President, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members.

Accordingly, it is proposed that for the sixty-fourth session the Credentials Committee should consist of the following Member States: Brazil, China, Jamaica, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia.

May I take it that the States I have mentioned are hereby appointed members of the Credentials Committee?

It was so decided.

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/64/348)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members are aware that, pursuant to section 1, paragraph 7, of resolution 40/243, no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during the main part of a regular session of the Assembly, unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

On the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, authorization is thus sought for the

following subsidiary organs: the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Disarmament Commission, the Executive Board of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to authorize those subsidiary organs of the Assembly to meet during the main part of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations A/64/PV.2

General Assembly

Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

2nd plenary meeting
Friday, 18 September 2009, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Item 7 of the provisional agenda (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

First report of the General Committee (A/64/250)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I invite the General Assembly to direct its attention to section I of the report of the General Committee. In that section, the Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 2.

May I request the General Assembly now to direct its attention to section II, entitled "Organization of the session", which contains a number of recommendations concerning the General Committee, rationalization of work, the opening and closing dates for the session, the schedule of meetings, the general debate, the conduct of meetings, and so on.

All of these recommendations concern established practice, so rather than going through them one by one, I believe that it would be better and much more efficient that we address all of these organizational matters concerning the General Assembly as a whole.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all the information that it is requested to take note of and to approve all the recommendations of the General Committee contained in section II of the report?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): As the General Assembly has just adopted the recommendation contained in paragraph 15 of the report on waiving the requirements of rule 67 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to declare a meeting open, I should like to endorse the practical suggestion that has been made at previous sessions that each delegation designate someone to be present in the meeting rooms at the scheduled times.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 36 of the report concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for the review of their programme budget implications?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now invite representatives to turn their attention to section III dealing with the adoption of the agenda. The question of allocation of items will be dealt with subsequently in section IV.

In section III, the General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 44 to 49.

In paragraph 50, the General Assembly is informed that the General Committee decided to postpone to a later date its consideration of the question of the inclusion of item 19 of the draft agenda, "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte".

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In paragraph 51, the General Committee recommends that the consideration of item 41 of the draft agenda, "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India", be deferred to the sixty-fifth session and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 52, in connection with item 62 of the draft agenda, "Agriculture development and food security", the General Committee recommends that item 62 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading B, "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 53, in connection with item 123 of the draft agenda, "Global health and foreign policy", the General Committee recommends that item 123 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 54, in connection with item 160 of the draft agenda, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization", the General Committee recommends that item 160 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 55, in connection with item 161 of the draft agenda, "Observer status for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission in the General Assembly", the General Committee recommends that item 161 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 56, in connection with item 162 of the draft agenda, "Observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly", the General Committee recommends that item 162 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 57, in connection with item 163 of the draft agenda, "Observer status for the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly", the General Committee recommends that item 163 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 58, in connection with item 164 of the draft agenda, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization", the General Committee recommends that item 164 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 59, in connection with item 165 of the draft agenda, "Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War", the General Committee recommends that item 165 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In paragraph 60, in connection with item 166 of the draft agenda, "Observer status for the International Conference on

the Great Lakes Region of Africa in the General Assembly", the General Committee recommends that item 166 be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to the agenda which the General Committee recommends in paragraph 61 of its report for adoption by the General Assembly, taking into account the decisions just adopted with respect to the draft agenda.

Bearing in mind that the agenda is organized under nine headings, we shall consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. I should like to remind members once again that, at present, we are not discussing the substance of any item.

Items 1 to 3 have already been dealt with. We turn now to items 4 to 8. May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to the inclusion of the items listed under heading A, "Maintenance of international peace and security". May I take it that the items listed under heading A are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to heading B, "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences". May I take it that the items listed under this heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Next, we turn to heading C, "Development of Africa". May I take it that the item listed under this heading is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Now we come to heading D, "Promotion of human rights". May I take it that the items listed under heading D are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Heading E is entitled "Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts". May I take it that the items listed under this heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Next, we turn to heading F, "Promotion of justice and international law". May I take it that the items listed under heading F are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We now turn to heading G, "Disarmament". May I take it that the items listed under that heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Heading H is entitled "Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations". May I take it that the items listed under that heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Last, we turn to heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the items listed under heading I are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We now turn to section IV of the report of the General Committee, on allocation of items. The General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 62 to 65. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 64, concerning the granting of observer status?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We shall now turn to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 66 to 71. We shall take up the recommendations one by one. Before we proceed, may I remind members that the item numbers cited here refer to the draft agenda in paragraph 61 of the report before us, namely, document A/64/250.

We first turn to paragraphs 66 (a) to (l), which relate to a number of plenary items. In paragraph 66 (f), the General Committee recommends that item 64 of the draft agenda, entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council", be allocated to the plenary meeting and the Third Committee, on the understanding that the Third Committee would consider and act on all recommendations of the Human Rights Council to the Assembly, including those that deal with the development of international law in the field of human rights, without prejudice to the right of Member States to present draft resolutions and decisions on all issues considered in the report of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Cuba on a point of order.

Mrs. Pérez Álvarez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first time that we address you, Sir, we would like to congratulate you on your election.

With regard to the draft item entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council", we wish to draw the Secretariat's attention to the fact that the language used in the Spanish version of document A/64/250 is not the same as that used in the recommendation made last year in document A/63/252/Add.2. The delegation of Cuba notes that, in the English version of the document to which we are referring today, the language is exactly the same as that of last year's recommendation. With regard to the Spanish version, therefore, we would ask that a correction be made to bring it in line with the English. In other words, the Spanish version of document A/64/250 should include the same language included in the Spanish version of document A/63/252/Add.2.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We take note of the comments of the representative of Cuba and will act accordingly.

Taking into account the recommendation I have just made, the General Assembly would, in plenary meeting, consider the report of the Council on its activities for the year. It is also understood that the current agreement is in no way a reinterpretation of General Assembly resolution 60/251 and that it will be reviewed before the beginning of the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all of the information that the General Committee wishes it to take note of and to approve all of the recommendations of the General Committee contained in paragraphs 66 (a) to (l)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We now turn to paragraph 67, which pertains to item 96, entitled "General and complete disarmament". May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 67?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to paragraph 68, on item 60, of the Second Committee. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 68?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to paragraphs 69 (a), (b) and (c), on items 62, 69 and 105, respectively, of the Third Committee. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to approve the recommendations and to take note of the information contained in paragraphs 69 (a), (b) and (c)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to paragraphs 70 (a) and (b), which pertain to items 133 and 142 of the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 70 (a) and (b)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to paragraphs 71 (a) to (d), on items 165, 166, 167 and 168, respectively, of the Sixth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in those paragraphs?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We shall now turn to paragraph 72 of the report of the General Committee, on the allocation of items to the plenary and to each Committee.

We shall first turn to the list of items recommended by the General Committee for consideration directly in plenary meeting under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly

approves the allocation of the items listed for consideration in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn next to the list of items that the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the First Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the First Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We come now to the list of items that the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Second Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We turn now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Third Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Next, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Fifth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Lastly, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Sixth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Sixth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the first report of the General Committee. I wish to thank all members of the Assembly for their cooperation.

Each Main Committee will receive the list of agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

I would now like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the Holy See, in its capacity as an Observer State, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/314 of 1 July 2004 and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/58/871, the Holy See, in its capacity as an Observer State, will participate in the work of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

I would also like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of Palestine, in its capacity as observer, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 43/177 of 15 December 1988, and 52/250 of 7 July 1998, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/52/1002, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, will participate in the work of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.